

CONFIDENTIAL
Security Information

31 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Research and Reports

25X1
FROM :

SUBJECT : Establishment of Statistical Table Exploitation Program
in the Japanese Captured Documents under FDD Control.

1. Problem: To extract the most significant economic statistical materials from unexploited Japanese language documents located at FDD.

2. Assumption: That this valuable intelligence information can be made available by extracting these statistical tables from the Japanese language documents and consolidating them into an easily usable reference file.

3. Facts Bearing on the Problem:

a. ORR research experience relevant to the economy of Communist China indicates that statistical source materials from Japanese occupation research groups in China and Manchuria between 1937 and 1945 are necessary to ORR analysts in order to obtain a complete picture of the Chinese economy under the strain of Japanese occupation and war, and that such materials have never been systematically exploited.

b. There is a gap in our knowledge of economic and industrial developments in China and Manchuria for the period 1937 to 1945.

c. It is estimated that 5,000 documents containing approximately 500,000 statistical tables which include detailed information on China and Manchuria have not been made available for research up to this time. (See attached FDD Staff Study.)

d. There is not known to be in existence a reference file of statistical tabular data on China.

4. Discussion:

A small team of ORR personnel with the help of FDD linguists could select important statistical material and photograph the tables. FDD translators could then add English language columnar headings, the necessary explanatory information, the bibliographic citation, and produce a useful reference file of statistical tables. While the estimate of 500,000 statistical tables appears to be quite staggering, it should be borne in mind that flexible criteria could be applied during the initial phase of the pilot

CONFIDENTIAL

project to cut down the volume of tables to be processed. The "all or nothing" approach should not be taken. If 5,000 valuable statistical tables are made available by the task force in three months, the intelligence community would be so much the richer. A preliminary survey of the statistical tabular data in the FDD collection has proved its importance to the extent that the writer has suggested first priority for its exploitation.

Some tentative arrangements in setting up the joint task force have been made. [redacted] of OCD has offered to loan Recordak reproduction equipment. [redacted] of Reproduction has volunteered to train two people in the use of the Recordak equipment. Mr. John Bagnall, Chief, FDD, has indicated his full cooperation in furnishing linguistic support to the experiment. Responsible officials of the Industrial, Analysis, Materials and Services Divisions have tentatively agreed to furnish representatives from their respective divisions to serve on the selection panel. [redacted] has expressed his interest and eagerness to assist the task force actively and has also indicated that other personnel of the [redacted] would be available for work on the project.

5. Conclusion:

a. The establishment of a joint ORR - FDD task force to exploit selected statistical data on China and Manchuria would not only be a worthwhile experiment as an approach to a partial solution of "research in mass", but also it would contribute valuable knowledge to all ORR analysts working on China.

b. The only costs involved will be those for the time of the ORR staff assigned to the project and for the photographic materials involved.

6. Action Recommended:

a. The joint ORR - FDD task force be authorized.

b. That [redacted] be authorized to monitor all phases of the pilot project.

c. Two junior personnel be selected from ORR to be assigned to photographic training for one week, and thereafter to the photographic unit of the task force to be located in "Y" Building.

d. That [redacted] be encouraged to participate in the work of the task force, and that clearance procedures be immediately instituted to make it possible for him to do so.

e. That the results of the project be reviewed periodically and upon completion not later than 1 August 1953.

Attachment -
6 pgs.

Memo
by [redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL